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QUADRENNIAL REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CATEGORIES I AND II

Follow-up to decisions taken by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its session in 1991

Reports submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968

* E/C.2/1993/1.

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Note

At its 1991 session, the Committee noted that the reports of the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations and the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations had been submitted too late for consideration by the Committee and, in accordance with past practice, would be considered at its 1993 session (see E/1991/20, para. 23).

The reports of these two organizations are contained in this document. The material has been reproduced as submitted and therefore reflects the policies and terminology of the organizations concerned. The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Supplementary material, such as annual reports and samples of publications, is available in the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Development.

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CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

(Category II)

The Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations (CCJO) was founded in 1947 by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate René Cassin, first President of the European Court of Human Rights and principal author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Since its establishment, the CCJO and its constituent organizations, the Alliance Israelite Universelle, the American Friends of the Alliance israelite universelle, the Anglo-Jewish Association and the Canadian Friends of the Alliance israelite universelle have been actively participating with the United Nations and UNESCO in organizing programmes and developing projects on issues related to human rights, international law and education.

From 1947 through the mid-1980s, Moses Moskowitz served as Secretary-General of the organization. During his tenure, the CCJO focused its activities in New York, where it sponsored conferences on such topics as the abuse of human rights in the Soviet Union, and strategies to implement the International Covenants on Human Rights.

In addition, Mr. Moskowitz authored a number of books on the United Nations and international law. They included The Roots and Reaches of United Nations: Actions and Decisions; Human Rights and World Order; and The Politics and Dynamics of Human Rights.

In 1982, Mr. Moskowitz was diagnosed as having Alzheimer's Disease. As a consequence of his illness and subsequent turn-overs in support staff, the CCJO's New York office went through a period of inactivity.

Recognizing that the New York office was in a state of transition, the CCJO shifted its focus and resources by expanding its presence in Europe through the participation with the United Nations and UNESCO in Geneva and Paris. The CCJO's European office, based in Paris, is directed by Gerard Israel, author and expert on international law and political affairs.

Commencing in 1986, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of René Cassin and the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, CCJO activities included:

(a) Organizing public forums on the life and teachings of René Cassin in New York, Montreal and Paris;

(b) Participating in the ceremonial re-internment of Professor Cassin's remains in the Pantheon in Paris;

(c) Collaborating with the International Institute of Human Rights (René Cassin Foundation) to promote the development of educational material on the subject, as well as to distribute academic prizes and student scholarships;

(d) Establishing the Association pour la fidélité à la pensée du Président René Cassin, which promoted the efforts of the late Nobel Prize Laureate in the area of international law;

(e) Publishing Gérard Israël's study, René Cassin (Editions Desclée de Brouwer, 1990).

United Nations and UNESCO activities

The CCJO's European office participated in United Nations and UNESCO projects in Paris and Geneva, including:

(a) Serving on the planning committee for the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Paris and Geneva;

(b) Serving as a member of the Liaison Committee of the French NGOs to the United Nations office in Paris;

(c) Taking on the responsibility of preparing a brochure on Jewish culture for an upcoming programme in the "Décennie de la culture" series sponsored by UNESCO;

(d) Serving as a consultant to the Executive Committee and General Conference of UNESCO in Paris and Geneva in matters related to human rights, law and education.

Miscellaneous activities

The CCTO served as a consultant to the Council of Europe in Strassbourg, France, in matters pertaining to human rights, and assisted the French National Commission on Human Rights by addressing such issues as educational approaches to teaching about human rights, educational reform, nationality and minority rights, and drugs and AIDS education.

It is the hope of the CCJO and its constituent organizations that the bureaucratic restructuring will enable one of the oldest United Nations-inspired organizations to meet the many challenges of the 1990s and the twenty-first century.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AND STUDENT MOVEMENT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS (ISMUN)

(Category I)

During the 1986-1989 quadrennium, the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN) continued to develop its activities among young people in support of the aims and ideals of the United Nations, in accordance with its constitutional aims and its category I consultative status. It worked actively with young people and students in order to promote, especially through study and research on international issues, an informed larger knowledge about the United Nations, its actual meaning and its potential.

Formed in 1949, ISMUN has always aimed towards universality in its membership, having affiliates on all continents and in countries with different social systems. It has established regional offices in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Recently its efforts to expand its membership, particularly in the developing countries and in Eastern Europe has made substantial progress. At its 27th General Conference held in August 1989, ISMUN admitted 19 new organizations as members.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and conferences and other United Nations meetings

ISMUN has maintained a strong interest in United Nations activities promoting human rights. Its representatives have regularly attended the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities. On occasion, ISMUN has submitted written statements (itself or in association with other NGOs) or has intervened orally in the following areas: the right to self-determination; the eradication of apartheid and racial discrimination; the rights of the child, and gross violations of civil and political rights. During the period under review ISMUN actively participated in several important United Nations meetings such as the third special session of the General Assembly on disarmament and the special session on apartheid.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

ISMUN continued to work closely with UNESCO during the period under review, especially on matters of direct concern to young people and with its youth division. ISMUN attended various meetings organized by UNESCO, including all the collective consultations for youth NGOs convened by UNESCO during the period.

Particularly close cooperation was developed with UNICEF in relation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Representatives of UNICEF attended several ISMUN seminars. A European campaign on the rights of the child was developed in cooperation with the UNICEF European office.

Constructive cooperation was maintained with the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid which participated in and supported activities organized by ISMUN.

ISMUN also maintained cooperative relations with other United Nations bodies/agencies, including UNDP, UNU, UNEP, FAO and the ILO.

Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

Support for the universal implementation of United Nations resolutions has formed a central part of ISMUN activities at the international, regional and national levels. ISMUN has payed special attention to United Nations resolutions relating to peace, disarmament and development. It has actively helped to disseminate information on United Nations resolutions on the struggle against apartheid.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

ISMUN has continued to promote youth participation in the work of the United Nations at all levels and has maintained a close working relationship with relevant units of the secretariat, especially the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs Youth Unit. ISMUN has closely followed all developments in the area of channels of communication between the United Nations and youth. It has maintained its active role in the Geneva Informal Meeting (GIM) of International Youth Non-Governmental Organizations. 1/

ISMUN has maintained close cooperation with the United Nations Centre Against Apartheid and regularly consulted with its officers on the development of the international campaign against apartheid.

Cooperation with the Division for Palestinian Rights has been fruitful and involved regular consultations.

Close relations have been maintained with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights. ISMUN has actively supported the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights. The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights attended the recent ISMUN General Conference in 1989.

ISMUN organized the following international conferences/seminars/round tables during the period under review:

(a) United Nations for a Peaceful World (Karniowice, Poland, February 1986);

(b) The situation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories (Kumrovec, Yugoslavia, June 1986);

1/ An NGO in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

(c) Youth and student action for peace, disarmament and international cooperation (Costinesti, Romania, September 1986);

(d) The global situation of today and different ways to work for peace (Helsinki, Finland, October 1986);

(e) Youth: levels of participation and prospects of democratization in Latin America (Geneva, Switzerland, December 1986);

(f) East/West/South relations (Czerniejewa, Poland, March 1987);

(g) Foreign debt and the establishment of a new international order (Sevilla, Spain, May 1987);

(h) The Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies (Piacenza, Italy, July 1987;

(i) Disarmament for development (Harare, Zimbabwe, September 1987);

(j) Refugees: a growing problem (Nicosia, Cyprus, December 1987);

(k) Europe and the changing world (Warsaw, Poland, February 1988);

(l) The eradication of the enemy image (Geneva, Switzerland, February 1988);

(m) Young women: for the promotion of opportunities in education and training for employment and self-help (Barcelona, Spain, May 1988);

(n) International arms trade and its influence on politics, development and peace (Driebergen, Netherlands, July 1988);

(o) United Nations, peace building and the policy of new thinking (Warsaw, Poland, March 1989);

(p) Support for multilateralism and a strengthened United Nations (Stockholm, Sweden, August 1989);

(q) Youth solidarity with the people's struggle against apartheid (Stockholm, Sweden, August 1989).

ISMUN has also continued to play an active role in the cooperation between NGOs in consultative status with the United Nations. During the period ISMUN served as Vice-President of the NGO Subcommittee on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Apartheid and Decolonization (Geneva), treasurer of the NGO Special Committee on Disarmament (Geneva) and Treasurer of the NGO Special Committee on Transnational Corporations (Geneva).